



Edinburgh 11-11 St.Andrews

The much anticipated Kingdom v. Capital game ended in a nail biting tie of 11-11. Although a victory would have been a dream come true, the Saints Water Polo team walked away proud (and bruised) knowing that going from losing by 1 to a tie indicated a pattern that would seem to suggest a win is right around the corner! Prior to leaving for Edinburgh, most of the women headed to our typical Wednesday practice in Dundee for a few last-minute tactics and some quality tips from a visiting prospective goalie, Maya (who has 9 years of experience under her belt). After a hefty M&S shop we headed back to St. Andrews, picked up the rest of the team and went onwards to Edinburgh. Traffic was intense. Roads were closed off. Stress levels were high. We arrived at the Edinburgh pool at 6:26 for a game that was meant to be starting at 6:30. We raced up the stairs, quickly pulled on our costumes and then dived right into the pool for a short warm up. With a final pep talk from Coach and a chant led by Captain Lydia we took our positions and awaited the whistle. And we were off! After narrowly losing the swim off, Edinburgh took us by surprise and went on to score right off the bat. You could tell the Saints team was a little rattled and we rapidly conceded another goal. 2 goals was as far ahead as we would allow them to get. The first quarter saw some great goals from Nikki and Versfeld. Nikki then had to be taken out with a very bloody nose after being (accidentally) hit in the face. Georgie quickly jumped in to take her place. The quarter ended with a final goal from Edinburgh putting the score at 3-2. The second and third quarters were all about digging deep, which team was willing to hurt more, and discipline. We saw 2 phenomenal backhand goals in pit from Meg and a rocket of an outside shot from Lydia. Towards the end of the third period Nikki's nose had stopped bleeding, and being the absolute fighter she is, she got right back in and even managed to earn herself an ejection! Becky was an absolute star in defence, Edinburgh had to fight tooth and nail for every goal conceded. The third quarter ended on 8-8. It was all down to the last 8 minutes. We started super strong with two goals from Versfeld and some terrific assists from Lydia, but then quickly lost our lead with two goals from Edinburgh. We fought back with a killer shot from Elle on the wing. With 2 minutes to go, the score was 11-10 to us. Edinburgh shot with 20 seconds to go, and even though it was initially blocked by Alex it very unfortunately bounced right back towards the attacker, and with the goalie down it was just a question of popping it over the Goalie's head. The much anticipated Kingdom v. Capital game ended in a nail biting tie of 11-11. Although a victory would have been a dream come true, the Saints Water Polo team walked away proud (and bruised) knowing that going from losing by 1 to a tie indicated a pattern that would seem to suggest a win is right around the corner!



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